

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for fabricating a smaller-sized glass rod by elongation of a glass matrix, which comprises providing a glass matrix, applying steam to surfaces of said glass matrix, heating the thus applied glass matrix to soften the glass matrix to an extent sufficient for subsequent elongation, and elongating the softened glass matrix thereby providing a glass rod having a desired diameter.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said steam has a temperature ranging from 120 to 160°C.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said steam has a vapor pressure ranging from 0.27 to 0.63 MPa.
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said glass matrix is one that is cylindrically ground with free or fixed grains on the surface thereof prior to the application of steam.
5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein after the grinding, said matrix is cleaned with an aqueous solution of an alkali or acid.
6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the steam is

applied by jetting against said glass matrix from at least one nozzle unit provided around said glass matrix.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said nozzle unit
5 is in a form of a ring having a plurality nozzles along an inner periphery thereof in face-to-face relation with said glass matrix.

8. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the application is
10 carried out by moving said at least one nozzle unit while fixing said glass matrix.

9. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the application is carried out by moving said glass matrix while fixedly holding
15 said at least one nozzle unit.

10. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said glass matrix is made of a glass perform.

20 11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said matrix is made of a glass ingot.

12. A glass rod fabricated according to the method defined in Claim 1.

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